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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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TED SCHWINDEN, GOVERNOR

COGSWELL BUILDING

STATE OF MONTANA

HELENA, MONTANA 59620

January 11, 1985

Re: Preliminary Environmental Review
Lavina Class II Landfill

Board of County Commissioners, Golden Valley Co. Courthouse, Ryegate, MT
Dick Isern, District Sanitarian, Box 1150, Lewistown, MT
George Sanquins, Mayor, Town of Lavina, P. O. Box 127, Lavina, MT
Don Galloway, Solid Waste Superintendent, P. O. Box 127, Lavina, MT
Fred Horpestad, Lavina, MT
Editor, News-Argus, Box 900, Lewistown, MT 59457
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Bldg., Helena, MT
Tom Ellerhoff, Environmental Sciences Division, DHES, Helena, MT
Harold Chambers, State Library, Capitol Complex, Helena, MT

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana, 16.2.604,
the following Preliminary Environmental Review has been prepared by the
Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning Town of
Lavina, Class II Landfill.

The purpose of the Preliminary Environmental Review is to inform
all interested governmental agencies, public groups or individuals of
the proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have
a significant effect on the human environment. This Preliminary
Environmental Review will be circulated for a period of fifteen (15)
days at which time a decision will be made as to our future action.

If you care to comment on this proposed action, please do so within
the allotted time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Geach".

JOHN C. GEACH
Solid Waste Management Bureau
Environmental Sciences Division

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

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PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Division/Bureau Environmental Sciences Division/Solid Waste Management Bureau

Project or Application Town of Lavina, Class II Landfill

Description of Project The town of Lavina has submitted a solid waste management system license application to operate a Class II (Household Refuse) landfill in SE¹, Section 26, Township 7N, Range 22E, approximately 1½ miles north of Lavina(See Attached Map). This landfill site would be open and supervised one day per week. At the end of each day's operation the refuse in the site would be compacted and covered by a contractor hired by the town.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
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1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats
2. Water quality, quantity and distribution
3. Geology & soil quality, stability and moisture
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality
5. Aesthetics
6. Air quality
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources
8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy
9. Historical and archaeological sites

		X			X
			X		X
		X			X
		X			X
		X			X
		X			
			X		
			X		
			X		

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Social structures and mores				X		
2. Cultural uniqueness and diversity				X		
3. Local and state tax base & tax revenue			X			X
4. Agricultural or industrial production			X			X
5. Human health			X			X
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income				X		
7. Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities				X		
8. Quantity and distribution of employment				X		X
9. Distribution and density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services			X			X
11. Industrial & commercial activity				X		
12. Demands for energy			X			X
13. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals			X			X
14. Transportation networks & traffic flows			X			X

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction Central Montana Health District

Individuals or groups contributing to this PER. Not Necessary

Recommendation concerning preparation of EIS

PER Prepared by: John C. Geach JOHN C. GEACH

Date: January 11, 1985

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
Lavina Class II Landfill

1/14/85

1. Terrestrial, aquatic life and habitats

The location of this proposed site is currently being used for habitat for small animals including birds, field mice, and gophers. Approximately two acres of habitat will be disturbed by this project. Due to the size of the biological population and the abundance of similar habitat adjacent to the proposed site, this impact should be very minor.

2. Water quality, quantity and distribution

Well logs indicate useable groundwater is approximately 200 feet beneath the proposed site. The soil permeabilities in the site are very slow and the annual precipitation rate is low. In addition there are no major surface water supplies or drainages within the site or surrounding area. These factors indicate the site has a very low water pollution potential.

3. Geology and soil quality, stability and moisture

The addition of solid waste to the soil will permanently alter the soil quality moisture content and stability of the fill area. This impact should not be adverse if proper landfill refuse compaction, covering and grading techniques are employed at the site.

4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality

Native species of ground cover, grasses and small shrubs will be disturbed in the fill areas during the active life of the landfill. However, the completion of these fill areas will allow re-vegetation of natural or hybrid plant species.

5. Aesthetics

The aesthetics of the area will be slightly altered during the active life of the landfill. The most serious threat to the area's aesthetics would be litter from the landfill site. The applicant proposes to control litter by enforcing the town's refuse bagging ordinance and manual policing of the site. If these practices are not adequate litter fencing will be required.

6. Air Quality

Licensed landfills may apply to the state's Air Quality bureau for burning permits for clean untreated wood wastes. These periodically permitted fires should not significantly impact the area's air quality.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue

This two acre site will be temporarily removed by lease agreement from the county tax rolls. This loss should be insignificant to the county's overall taxable revenue base.

4. Agricultural or industrial production

This project will temporarily remove two acres from potential agricultural grazing. Due to the grazing potential of this site, this loss will



be minor. Upon completion of the landfill, this property could be placed back into grazing.

5. Human Health

This proposed sanitary landfill will replace the town's present open dump. The improved refuse handling practices of the landfill will eliminate the current health hazards associated with the present dump.

8. Quantity and distribution of employment

This proposed project will provide at least one part time job to perform site caretaking and equipment operating duties.

10. Demands for government services

Governmental services will be required on the local and state levels for inspection and administrative services associated with the issuance of a solid waste management system license to this landfill.

12. Demands for energy

Gasoline and other petroleum products will be consumed in refuse transportation to the landfill site and in the operation of the equipment needed at the site to properly handle and dispose of the refuse.

13. Locally adopted environmental plans and goals

The location of this proposed landfill complies with all existing local planning and zoning regulations as certified by the town mayor and county commissioners.

14. Transportation networks and traffic flows

Increased traffic flows will occur on the county roads leading to the proposed landfill. These increased flows will result in increased road deterioration and the need for additional periodic road maintenance and repair.





